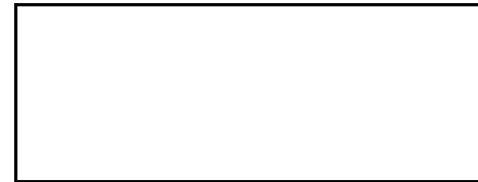


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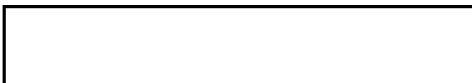
## MEMORANDUM

### *The Situation in Vietnam*

ARMY review(s) completed.

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Information as of 1600  
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HIGHLIGHTS

The Communists attacked targets in Hue with mortars and bombs and made light contact with US forces farther south in coastal Quang Ngai Province. The combined US Marine - South Vietnamese Army penetration into the southeastern portion of the DMZ has terminated. Nearly 800 NVA regulars were killed.

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:  
Communist guerrillas mortared the US and South Vietnamese military compounds in the northern city of Hue and later exploded a bomb, destroying the hotel which housed the members of the ICC team in Hue (Paras. 1-2). US Army troops report continuing sporadic contact with Communist forces north of Duc Pho in coastal Quang Ngai Province (Para. 3). Launching positions for large rockets may have been detected in Cambodia opposite Pleiku Province.

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The combined US Marine - South Vietnamese Army penetration into the southeastern portion of the DMZ has ended with nearly 800 NVA regulars killed (Paras. 6-9).

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MACV accepts the 5th NVA Regiment as subordinate to Northern Front and as located in Thua Thien Province (Paras. 15-16). Recent infiltration into central highlands is confirmed by POWs (Paras. 17-18).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

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Premier Ky will probably receive the support of local Chinese in his bid for the presidency (Para. 3).

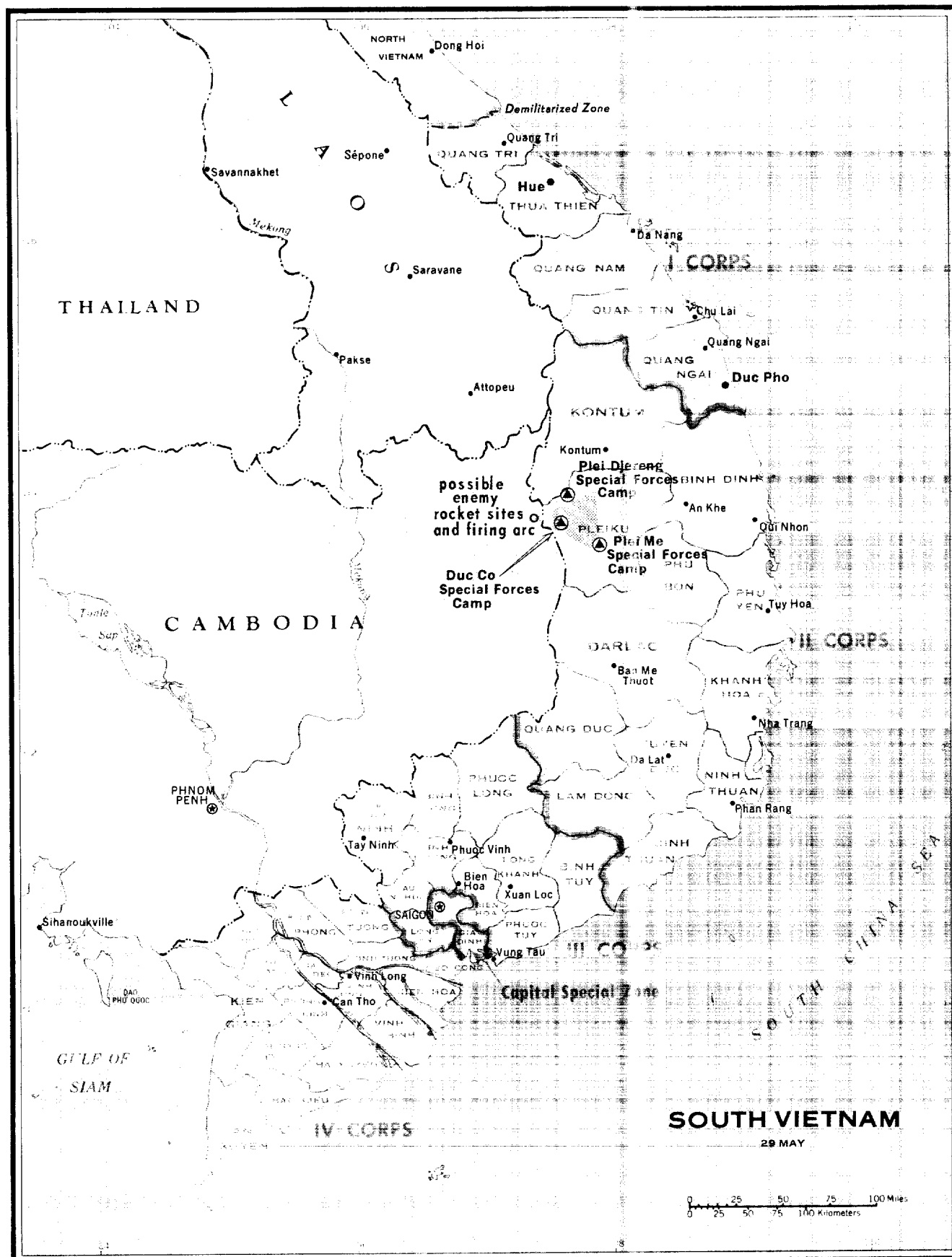
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V. Communist Political Developments: Food rationing in urban areas of DRV composed increasingly of flour in place of rice (Paras. 1-2).

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The US and South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) military compounds at Hue in northern Thua Thien Province were hit by Communist mortar fire in two separate attacks early on 29 May. A total of 65 rounds was directed at the installations, causing ARVN casualties of one killed and nine wounded. There were no American casualties.

2. Later, a nearby hotel which housed the ten members of the Indian-Canadian-Polish ICC team in Hue was 80 percent destroyed by a Communist bomb. None of the ICC members was injured but three South Vietnamese were killed and another eight wounded as a result of the explosion. These incidents could mark the opening phase of the enemy's "summer campaign" purportedly scheduled to begin before 1 June.

3. Farther south, in coastal Quang Ngai Province, US Army troops have reported continued sporadic fighting six miles northwest of Duc Pho. Preliminary reports show that, as a result of this two-day encounter, a total of 116 enemy soldiers have been killed in contrast to American losses of four killed and 22 wounded.

Possible Large Rocket Positions Opposite Pleiku Province

4. [REDACTED] which has just become available, indicates that there may be three large enemy rocket launcher positions in Cambodian territory immediately west of South Vietnam's Pleiku Province. Although no rockets or related equipment have been sighted, US military sources comment that the dimensions of the "positions" suggest that they could accommodate the Soviet 250-mm. surface-to-surface rocket. This rocket weighs 1,000 pounds and has a maximum range of nearly 35 miles.

5. Such rockets, if emplaced in the reported positions, could strike several US Special Forces

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camps--including Duc Co and Plei Djereng--and other allied strongpoints in western Pleiku Province. The introduction of such a large weapon, however, would pose considerable problems from the enemy's point of view and further data may be required before enemy intentions can be determined. There have been numerous indications in recent weeks of impending Communist offensive activity in the western Pleiku area.

#### Allied DMZ Sweep Ends

6. US Marine and ARVN units on 28 May completed the final phases of their major offensive which was targeted against an estimated 9,000 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars in the southeastern portion of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

7. The allied campaign, which consisted of four separate US and ARVN operations--HICKORY, BEAU CHARGER, BELT TIGHT, and LAM SON 54,--began on 17 May and was the first penetration into the DMZ by allied military forces. The combined drives were designed to relieve heavy Communist pressure on five US Marine and US Army outposts--Con Thien, Cam Lo, Camp Carroll, Gio Linh, and Dong Ha--on the periphery of a strategic 100-square-mile area immediately south of the buffer zone.

8. Communist resistance to the allied push ranged from moderate to heavy. In various engagements, elements of the three NVA regiments in the area fought from well-prepared defensive positions, consisting in many cases of complex bunkers and tunnel systems.

9. Confirmed Communist losses totaled nearly 800 killed in the 11-day allied drive; final friendly casualties were 164 killed (142 US) and 1,018 wounded (896 US). Enemy losses also included several large arms and food caches which were discovered and destroyed by the allied forces.

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MACV Accepts Another NVA Regiment in South Vietnam

15. MACV has accepted the 5th NVA Regiment--subordinate to the Northern Front--into its order of battle.

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16. The acceptance of the 5th NVA Regiment raises the total number of North Vietnamese regiments in South Vietnam to 25. The 5th regiment also joins the NVA 6th Regiment under the control of the Northern Front. The expansion of this Front, along with recent indications of stepped-up supply activity in western Thua Thien Province, suggests that the Northern Front is preparing for future combat activity.

More on Infiltration Into the Central Highlands

17. Two privates from the North Vietnamese 32nd Regiment, detained in a sweep operation on 27 May near the Duc Co Special Forces (SF) camp, have stated that the 36th Regiment of the NVA 325th Division recently arrived in the central highlands. All three regiments of the 325th Division were recently accepted into MACV's order of battle and all are believed to be in the northern I Corps/adjacent Laos area. In view of the information provided by these two soldiers, however, it is possible that at least one of these 325th Division regiments may have continued to move southward through the Laos panhandle.

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18. Two other detainees from the 7th Battalion of the NVA 66th Regiment--also located near the Duc Co SF camp, stated that they left North Vietnam in November 1966 with a replacement group of 300 personnel for the 66th Regiment. MACV comments that this is the first firm information available that units of the B-3 Highlands Front have been receiving replacements from North Vietnam.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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Chinese Community's Attitudes Toward Ky and Suu

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3. [REDACTED]

the local Chinese community would prefer a civilian as president, but will probably support Premier Ky's candidacy. They recognize Ky's promise to return the Chinese property which was confiscated by the Diem regime as a ploy to influence their votes, but the move may nonetheless restore some of the confidence in Ky which was lost when a Chinese businessman was executed for corruption in early 1966. The Chinese also feel that Ky has brought a measure of stability to business and to the entire country.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] continues to suggest that the Hanoi regime is currently relying heavily on supplies of foreign food imports. [redacted]

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2. Food supplies are apparently tight in areas other than Hanoi. [redacted]

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